IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANTS : STEPHEN CATE, ET AL.

SERIAL NO. : T.B.A. FILED : T.B.A.

TITLE : METHOD AND MEANS FOR FILLING NATURAL

CASING SAUSAGES

Group/A.U. : 3643

Examiner : Richard Thomas Price, Jr.

Conf. No. : 8426

Docket No. : P03958US3

Mail Stop Patent Application Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Please amend the above-identified divisional application, filed herewith, as follows:

Amendments to the Specification begin on page 2 of this paper.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 3 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 7 of this paper.

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

Donald H. Zarley(

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail, postage prepaid, in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Patent Application, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on this 2741 day of October, 2003.